

# The Brooklyn Paper

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AWP/12 pages • Vol. 35, No. 15 • April 13-19, 2012 • FREE



Mikhail Prokhorov, the billionaire owner of the Brooklyn Nets, toured the \$1-billion Barclays Center on April 10.

## Tsar gazing

Prokhorov checks out big investment

By Daniel Bush

The Brooklyn Paper

The owner of the Brooklyn-bound Nets liked what he saw of the under-construction Barclays Center when he toured the soon-to-be-finished arena during a rare visit to Brooklyn.

Russian billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov promised that the team's new home—which is slated to open with a Jay-Z concert on Sept. 28—would be the world's greatest

arena after surveying his hoops kingdom on Atlantic Avenue on Tuesday.

The 6-foot-8 basketball aficionado already has a huge investment in the borough, but he said he won't buy a house in Brooklyn to shorten his commute between Moscow and Prospect Heights for home games this fall.

"I'm a rich Russian who would drive up the prices," Prokhorov said. "It's not the best time to buy for me."

## GRAMMAR COURT

Driver battles traffic judges over the meaning of 'to'

By Natalie O'Neill

The Brooklyn Paper

Justice is blind—and it doesn't understand English very well, according to one angry Park Slope motorist.

Tenacious driver Mark Vincent is battling the courts after two judges

refused to overturn a parking ticket and towing fees leveled against him by the city after traffic cops penalized his vehicle for parking beneath a vague "No standing" sign on Prospect Park West last fall.

Vincent claims he parked his red Honda on Prospect Park West near Ninth Street on Oct. 3 near a sign reading: "No Standing, 8 am–10 pm, April to October."

Traffic enforcement officers interpreted the word "to" to imply that parking was barred through the end of October—not the start of the month

—then towed his car and several other vehicles.

The Department of Transportation has since replaced the signs on the roadway—where drivers lost a lane of traffic and 22 parking spaces to make way for a contested two-way bike lane—with ones indicating that rule is only enforced through Sept. 31, evidence that Vincent claims proves he was in the right.

But the motorist says justice still hasn't been served, even after two appeal and numerous hours spent compiling evidence, writing letters, and making phone calls to judges.

"It's obviously and egregiously unjust," he said.

Vincent first appealed the \$125 citation—which doesn't include

See **TICKET** on page 12



Mark Vincent says the city wrongfully towed his car—so he's taking the battle straight to the top.

## WEIRDED LADIES

Coney welcomes some freaky women

By Colin Mixson

The Brooklyn Paper

A panel of female professionals will convene in Coney Island to discuss feminine independence and entrepreneurship—but don't be surprised if they show up wearing nipple tassels or bedazzled, lobster claw gloves.

As part of Coney Island USA's annual sideshow convention, "Congress of Curious People," a coterie of New York's most outrageous, beautiful, and admittedly less-than-typical ladies will assemble to tell the world what it's like to be weird women.

"It will be very much about getting close to these women, who are generally implied as being unavailable to the public," said Jo Weldon, also known as "Jo Boobs" or "Boobzilla," headmistress and founder of the New York School of Burlesque, who will be moderating the "Wild Women Panel" on April 18. "Where else can you get so up close and personal to these crazy people?"



Who better to moderate a forum on the world's weirdest women than Jo Weldon, seen here as one of her alter-egos, Boobzilla.

The discussion will feature women whose acts range from the traditional burlesque of Bunny Love, to the more bizarre half-woman, half-crustacean boogie of Bambi the Mermaid.

The sword-swallowing male magician, The Great Fredini—one of the original curators of "Burlesque at the Beach"—will add some testosterone to the discussion.

Female performers have long dominated the field of burlesque, but they're role in Coney Island's sideshow history is perhaps less well known.

Burlesque experienced a resurgence in popularity in recent years—sparking greater interest the part women played in carnival-style attractions, sources said.

In a change of pace for the women on stage, this week's panel is less about spectacle and more about education.

Audiences will hear about the history, performances, and styles of America's least-domesticated women—not

See **CONEY** on page 12



The United States Postal Service told Donna Chilson to pick up her mail at the Kensington post office in "Frooklyn"—sparking mild confusion.

## Post office sends you to 'Frooklyn'

By Eli Rosenberg

The Brooklyn Paper

Our proud borough has been given many nicknames and abbreviations over the years, and now the United States Postal Service—a stickler for proper addresses—has offered up a confusing new one straight out of a Dr. Seuss tale: "Frooklyn, N.Y."

The much-maligned Kensington Post Office misspelled the borough's name on thousands of package pick-up slips, instructing residents in the

11218 zip code to come to the post office on McDonald Avenue in this still-undiscovered town to get packages that couldn't fit through their mail slots.

And it doesn't seem that they're going to correct the error: the post office, which many consider one of the worst in the city because of its rude workers and long lines, was still using the botched pick-up slips when this reporter stopped by last week.

"We printed out a whole batch of these," said a station employee, nearly cracking a smile as a resident handed her one as a souvenir.

Customers waiting on line couldn't believe the United States Postal Service would make such a boo-boo.

"I thought it was a joke, but the guy in front of me had the same one!" said Robin Wertheimer, a Windsor Terrace resident who headed to the Kensington Post Office to pick up her package after she couldn't find Frooklyn on any map. "I always wondered why Chinese restaurant owners didn't get their menus proofed—but the post office? How did they do this?"

The United States Postal Service

See **FROOKLNY** on page 9

## The sugar daddy

Domino finds 'white knight'

By Aaron Short

The Brooklyn Paper

A part-owner of the former Domino Sugar factory claims he recruited an unnamed investor to buy up his partner's massive debt and salvage an ambitious plan to bring 2,200 units of housing to the Williamsburg waterfront.

Developer Isaac Katan, who owns

half of the proposed project, has a "white knight" capable of saving the financially troubled \$1.2 billion development from foreclosure after Domino partner Community Preservation Corporation Resources defaulted on a \$120 million loan, Katan's attorney, Y. David Scharf, said in court on Thursday.

See **DOMINO** on page 9

## G-train 'extension' is actually G-train resurrection

Old maps prove the Brooklyn Local should head to Church

By Natalie O'Neill

The Brooklyn Paper

Saving an at-risk extension of the G train won't just make straphangers happy—it will preserve the beloved train's historic role as the line for Brooklyn's working populace, historians and transportation advocates say.

When the Crosstown local first rumbled through Brooklyn in 1937 as the "GG," it traversed the borough between Greenpoint and Kensington, giving factory workers a much-needed transportation link between North and

Brownstone Brooklyn that ran late into the night.

The Crosstown line served Fourth Avenue–Ninth Street, Seventh Avenue–Ninth Street, 15th Street–Prospect Park West, Fort Hamilton Parkway, and Church Avenue—it's current, but temporary, terminus—on and off until 1976, when officials nixed the train's five southernmost stops as facto-



Save the G

ries closed, ridership dwindled, and the city struggled financially, transit historians said.

The current renewal of service, which brings the so-called "Brooklyn Local" back to Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, and Kensington, has once again made it a train for laborers, this time in the borough's burgeoning creative workforce—and severing it again could even stop

Brooklyn's boom in its tracks, activists claim.

"Cutting five stops on the G train would hurt thousands of residents and small business owners," Dan Cantor of the Working Families Party, a group circulating a petition to save the so-called "Brooklyn Local."

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority extended G train service to Church Avenue when it started a \$257.5-million renovation of the Culver Viaduct in 2009. When that rehabilitation

project wraps up next winter, the line is slated to be cut, despite widespread outcry.

Many Brooklynites rely on the G train for life, work, and love—but to save the renewed service, they'll need to prove it to the MTA, said transit historian Peter Derrick.

"The service makes sense," said Derrick. "When a service is heavily used, you can justify it."

Straphangers and politicians are

See **G-TRAIN** on page 12



This map shows the Crosstown line connecting Greenpoint with Kensington—back in the 1970s.

## Another Slope bar fight

By Natalie O'Neill

The Brooklyn Paper

Park Slope residents say a planned music venue just blocks from the soon-to-open Barclays Center gives new meaning to the term "bad chemistry."

Neighbors of the proposed Kemistry Lounge on Flatbush Avenue say a venue with live performances, DJs, a full bar, dancing, and an exit on a residential block of Prospect Place will bring

noise and ruckus to their quiet community.

"It's disruptive; it turns the street into liquor lane," said neighbor Harold Gruber. "It's going to make it impossible to sleep."

Gruber and other neighbors are fighting the venue's liquor license bid, saying the "Vegas-style" club—which is slated to accommodate 250 revelers in a grocery store-sized space until 3 am on Saturdays, 2 am on Fridays, 1 am on Thurs-

See **KEMISTRY** on page 12



Harold Gruber is no fan of Kemistry Lounge.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

## W'burg: Club is over the top

By Aaron Short

The Brooklyn Paper

A Manhattan nightclub owner wants open a new venue on N. First Street, but neighbors of the so-called Williamsburg Manor fear the planned discotheque won't mind its manners.

Alexander Dimitrov hopes to transform a warehouse near the waterfront into a phantasmagoric play-scape complete with vertical French gardens, an

enormous rooftop patio, and enough room for 300 people to party until 4 am on weekends.

But residents of several condo buildings near the proposed venue say the project is ill-planned and worry its noise will overwhelm their sleepy street.

"Why did the city allow this block to be rezoned for high-end residential units if they're going to let a party venue open

See **MANOR** on page 12



Jenice Malecki is petitioning against Williamsburg Manor.

CNG / Aaron Short



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# Hockey hopes for Barclays

Long Island’s asbestos problem might send Islanders to Brooklyn

By Daniel Bush  
The Brooklyn Paper

Nassau Coliseum’s asbestos problem could be the Barclays Center’s biggest coup.

A state investigation into claims that the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum — where the New York Islanders’ hockey team plays its home games — is filled with the cancer-causing fiber could bring the team to the \$1-billion, asbestos-free Prospect Heights arena if the lethal substance isn’t removed by the start of next season.

The state Department of Labor launched a probe of the Long Island sports complex on March 30, after more than 75 workers alleged the facility was filled with asbestos in a bombshell lawsuit filed against Nassau County, which owns the Coliseum.

“The whole place is covered in it,” said Joseph Dell, the plaintiffs’ attorney. “The county is responsible for keeping Nassau Coliseum safe but it never renovated



The Nassau Coliseum, home of the Islanders, is filled with a carcinogen that might send the team packing if officials find conditions too dangerous for stadium workers or fans — potentially steering the team toward the \$1-billion, asbestos-free Barclays Center.

it or did an asbestos abatement.”

The Islanders have been in the hunt for a new arena

on Long Island, but Nassau County voters shot down plans for a new hockey hub.

If a cleanup of the Nassau Coliseum stretches beyond the start of the hockey season this fall — or if the asbestos problem forces county officials to close the arena — the Islanders would be forced to find a new home, and the Barclays Center is an easy option. A deal with the National Hockey League requires the Islanders play on Long Island, which, surprisingly to some, includes Brooklyn at its western tip.

An asbestos-abetted move to Brooklyn is all but inevitable according to sports talking heads, including Mike Francesa.

State labor officials did not return calls seeking comment, but county officials said they conducted a study last month that found small amounts of asbestos in areas of the Coliseum that are off-limits to the public.

The county investigators determined the building was safe, but Dell says test results he commissioned from three separate labs show asbestos — an outdated fireproofing material that can cause mesothelioma, lung cancer, and other series illnesses after prolonged exposure — in several seating sections, hallways, catwalks, and other areas of the 16,000-seat arena, making a building that has employed more than 1,000 people since it opened in 1972

a danger for workers.

Hockey was originally considered a possible attraction at the Brooklyn Nets’ future home on the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, but the plans were scuttled after Barclays Center’s architect Frank Gehry was fired in 2009 and his proposed arena was scrapped to cut costs.

The 18,000-seat hoops arena could only fit 14,500 fans during hockey games, which would make it the smallest arena in the league. Last season, the Islanders averaged just 11,000 spectators per game.

The arena might be small, but by coming to Brooklyn, the team could move into a finished stadium and start playing without taking on any debt or spending any cash to build their ice rink, sports writers have surmised.

In January, the team agreed to play a preseason game against the New Jersey Devils at Barclays, sparking rumors the club was eyeing a long-term move to the borough.

At the time, Barclays Center officials said they’d welcome the Islanders with open arms.

“Brooklyn is an untapped hockey market that offers the Islanders with an exciting opportunity to grow its fan base,” said Barclays Center CEO Brett Yorlmark.

In a television appearance last year, the arena’s developer Bruce Ratner said he hopes the Islanders make the move, and repeated his wish to the New York Times in an interview just last month.

“We’d love to have the Islanders,” Ratner said.

The team’s current lease at the Nassau Coliseum expires in 2015.

A spokesman for the team declined to comment.

Asbestos experts said even if the current mess is cleaned up quickly, many fans will be scared away from the arena for good.

“When people know there’s asbestos involved they tend to stay away,” said Jordan Fox, an asbestos law specialist who’s not involved with the case. “Even if the government says its okay, fans won’t want to come back.”



## Changing lanes

A revolutionary roadway redesign that will give cars, cyclists, and pedestrians roughly the same amount of space is taking shape on Prospect Park’s scenic loop after several serious crashes.

# Saves our ships

Red Hook’s port will no longer sink

By Will Bredderman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn’s shipping industry will remain afloat, for now, thanks to a deal that will keep Customs inspectors working in Red Hook’s port until 2017, federal officials, waterfront insiders, and politicians say.

Federal overseers stationed at the Red Hook Container Terminal will continue to hand-inspect shipments under a new, five-year agreement between Customs and Border Protection and the Port Authority.

The decision came after Customs announced last year it would slash costs by eliminating manual inspections at the port — a move longshoremen and politicians feared would make shipping to Brooklyn more expensive, sinking an industry that has dwindled in the borough for decades.

Lou Pernice, president of the Brooklyn chapter of the International Longshoremen’s Association, rejoined at the news.

“I’m happy about that situation, of course,” said Pernice. “If Customs had done what they were planning on doing it would have driven business out of Brooklyn.”

Dock workers and poli-



Customs officials will continue to conduct hand inspections at the Red Hook Container Terminal, a move that watchdogs say will keep shipping in Brooklyn alive.

ticians claimed a removal of Customs specialists — who hand inspect about 3,800 containers in Red Hook annually — would sweep away 700 jobs and cause an increase in pollution and security risks in the borough, as suspicious cargo would need to be trucked overland for closer examination in Staten Island or New Jersey.

Amid outcry from longshoremen and politicians including Reps. Jerry Nadler (D–Red Hook), Michael Grimm (R–Bay Ridge), and Nydia Velazquez (D–

Red Hook), and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D–Park Slope), the feds issued a 90-day extension, set to expire today, that kept inspectors in Red Hook.

Customs cheered the deal in a press release.

“The agreement takes into account the unique geography and terminal operations at Red Hook, the potential economic impact if certain aspects of Customs’ operations were moved off the terminal, and the overall flow of trade through the port and the region,” the agency said in its statement.

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THE

stoop

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

BAYRIDGE



Photo by Steve Solomonson

Robert Howe (left) and Glow Thai owner Anthony Loupos are both pumped to see this parking meter become a bike rack.

Ridge meters

to serve bikes

By Will Bredderman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Maybe Bay Ridge is a bike-friendly community after all.

Residents continually plan to bring bike lanes into Bay Ridge, but now merchants along Third Avenue are cheering the Department of Transportation's proposal to repurpose obsolete "lollipop" meters into bicycle racks.

Robert Howe, president of the Third Avenue Merchants Association and an avid cyclist, said the racks would be a boon for cyclists who can't find a place to hitch their wheels onto in car-heavy Bay Ridge.

"I know whenever I'm riding my bike, I'm always looking for the tallest pole I can put my bike on," Howe said. "You see people chaining their bicycle up to trees and alternate side parking signs all the time," he said. "This program would obviate that need."

The city gave Third Avenue merchants the option to have the meter in front of their store converted into a bicycle rack once new muni-meters are installed in the fall.

Several merchants like restaurateur Anthony Loupos, who opened Glow Thai between 71st and 72nd streets, have already jumped at the chance.

Loupos said he was very excited about getting more two-wheeled business rolling past his eatery.

"Last fall on a nice day we would see four or five tables per day come on bicycle," he said.

Loupos also claimed that the racks would help him protect his eatery's delivery bike, which thieves have pedaled away with in the past because it wasn't securely fastened to anything.

Howe hoped the city's plan would motivate more Ridgites to leave their motorized wheels at home and bike to their favorite stores and restaurants.

"[Ridgites] are famous for driving two blocks to the store," he said. "Maybe this will cut back on that bad habit."

BOERUM HILL

Rick's out, so drink him up

This weekend, raise a glass to — and of — Santorum

By Natalie O'Neill  
The Brooklyn Paper

A cocktail named Republican presidential hopeful Rick Santorum has turned out to be more popular than the candidate himself.

The ex-Senator with the dirty, little Google problem pulled out of the race for the GOP nomination months after it became

clear he didn't have the backing he'd need to take on President Obama — but a beverage riffing on a randy neologism of the sweater vest aficionado's surname will remain on the menu at Pacific Standard on Fourth Avenue to meet the demand of hundreds of thirsty pub-goers.

Bartender Glynn Sullivan

WILLIAMSBURG

Big deal on Bedford Avenue

Huge real estate turnover paves way for chain retail

By Aaron Short  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Bedford Avenue property owner who sold off some of his land to make room for Whole Foods is parting with another major parcel across the street, paving the way for another big-time tenant and ending two small business's decade-long run in the Northside.

Landlord Yehuda Backer sold the majority stake in a commercial property housing the Bagel Store and Millennium Health at the corner of N. Third Street to Manhattan real estate investor Joel Schreiber earlier this month.

Backer would not disclose how much he earned in the transaction — a sale finalized a few days after he took out a \$3.75 million mortgage on the site — but he told The Brooklyn Paper it was "quite a lot."

He said Schreiber plans to combine the two now-empty storefronts and lure a large retail entity or a bank to the strip.

"You're not going to see a Starbucks there," said



Community Newspaper Group / Aaron Short

Millennium Health owner Mohammad Aamir and his family put their wares on sale on Sunday.

Backer. "It's too expensive for them."

The real estate swap is the latest change on a block of Bedford Avenue where independent businesses have given way to corporate chains.

Last month, organic grocery behemoth Whole Foods announced its plans to open a store at the corner of N. Fourth Street after Backer sold a block-long property to developers for \$23 million. The gym New

York Sports Club is slated to join the new supermarket, while the bank HSBC and the pharmacy chain Duane Reade have already set up shop on the block.

Rising rents on the street have made the block inhospitable to small businesses, according to Millennium Health proprietor Mohammad Aamir.

Aamir claims Backer wanted to triple his rent to about \$30,000 a month when his lease ended on April 1

— so he chose to move to another storefront on Bedford Avenue near S. Second Street instead.

"I'd rather move to Manhattan and pay \$25,000 a month, and make double the money," said Aamir. "It's not possible to pay that kind of rent, and there's a lot of competition out here."

Bagel Store owner Scott Rosillo claims he rejected an offer to stay in the space and pay \$15,000 per month — double his current rent.

"The premise of Williamsburg as an artist community with small businesses providing for that community is going away," said Rosillo, who opted to move his shop to a site on Bedford Avenue and S. Fourth Street. "Eventually that population is moving to the Southside — and it's already begun."

Backer said he offered Rosillo the opportunity to expand into both storefronts, but claims the bagel-maker rejected the pitch and asked for a rent reduction instead. Both parties are still hashing out a financial dispute over the property in court.

RED HOOK

Manhattan trans-planters

34th St's concrete jungle is no miracle on the waterfront

By Paul DeBenedetto  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Fear not Red Hookers: an obscure Manhattan business group is not encroaching on Pier 41 — even though more than dozen weathered planters appear to indicate otherwise.

A row of aging planters adorned with logos for Manhattan's 34th Street Partnership are enjoying a second life not quite beautifying the waterfront behind Fairway, raising occasional questions about their out-of-borough provenance and holding as much garbage as greenery, according to critics.

The flowerpots — which were apparently so unattractive the Midtown merchants group struggled to give them



Photo by Moses Jefferson

The 34th Street Partnership in Manhattan "donated" these branded planters to the Red Hook waterfront.

away — popped up on the Brooklyn waterfront in 2002 after the 34th Street Partnership bought newer, sleeker, plastic street furnishings that are easier to clean and harder for graffiti writers to tag.

And eight years of wear and tear on 34th Street and a decade along the pier, some locals claim Manhattan's concrete cast-offs are a bad fit for Red Hook.

"It looks like you're taking hand-me-down clothes," said Eugene Moore, who rejected an offer from the 34th Street Partnership to take the planters when he served as head of an East New York business-improvement group a decade ago. "It's a little tacky."

The Manhattan group shopped the planters around before giving the boxes to Red Hook property owner Greg O'Connell for free.

Taking something old and making it new again is part of the Red Hook ethos, said O'Connell, who converted

an 1870s warehouse into a high-end grocery store, studios for artists, and apartments, and turned Manhattan's old planters into, well, Brooklyn's old planters.

"We like to recycle," said O'Connell, who won't replace the planters. "In Red Hook, that's what we're all about."

Recycling is well and good, but some Brooklynites say aesthetics are important, too — especially when the most eye-catching parts of many of the planters are the fading or scratched-off logos promoting the 34th Street Partnership.

"Make it so it's not so obvious that they're recycled," said Cobble Hill resident Geoffrey Lewis.

WHOOPS

Correction

Last week, on this very page, The Stoop incorrectly described a planned development on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope as being a wind- and solar-powered condominium.

The building will not be powered by wind, and it will be a rental, not a condo.

The confusion arose due to a related project on Hamilton Avenue in nearby Carroll Gardens, that is powered in part by wind that was referenced by its backers.

The Brooklyn Paper regrets the error.

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# Gunfight sends chills down Columbia Street

**76TH PRECINCT**  
**Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook**  
A man allegedly shot at cops as he dashed down Columbia Street on April 7 —

and was hit once when the cops returned fire.  
Police patrolmen said they were between Huntington and Nelson streets at 3 am when they saw the man downing a beer. As they approached him,

he took off sprinting, they said. As the chase was underway, the man stumbled and allegedly fired several rounds at the officers, all missing.  
Cops say they returned fire, striking the man once

in the shoulder, before he escaped.  
Police arrested a man who had a gunshot wound in his shoulder on April 8 in Far Rockaway.

**Break in**  
A thief robbed a Columbia street home sometime between April 1 and April 4, taking various electronics, and a bicycle.  
The victim, 57, told police that she left her house at Baltic and Kane streets at 6 pm on April 1, and didn't return until 3:30 pm four days later. That's when she discovered that her basement door had been pried open and her \$200 Schwinn bicycle, \$350 Hitachi stereo, and \$200 Sony TV were missing.

**Reach around**  
A crook broke into a Congress Street house on April 6 and took a pricey laptop.  
The victim told police that he left his home between Hicks and Henry streets at 2:30 pm. When he returned at 4 pm, his front window had been broken and his laptop, worth \$1,000, was gone.  
— Colin Mixson

**94TH PRECINCT**  
**Greenpoint–Northside**  
**Pocket runner**  
A thief punched a 17-year-old boy and tried to rob him on Union Avenue on April 2.  
The victim told cops he was near Bayard Street at 2:30 pm when four teens surrounded him, and one punched his face and demanded, "Run your pockets."  
The goons chased him for a block but the victim ran into a school and called the police.

**Subway phone**  
A thief stole a woman's phone on a Manhattan-bound L train at Metropolitan Avenue on April 4.  
The victim told police she was on the train at 8:50 am when the thief snatched her phone and ran out the doors as the train pulled into the Lorimer Street station.

**Hoaxers**  
Three swindlers posing as maintenance men stole \$2,500 from a Meserole Avenue apartment on April 6.  
The victim told police he let the men into his building near Leonard Street at 10:30 am because they said they were going to fix his window.  
One distracted him while the others went to his bedroom and took the money, he said.  
— Aaron Short



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**84TH PRECINCT**  
**Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown**  
**G train attack**  
Four thugs with a box-cutter robbed a man on the G train on April 2.  
The straphanger told police he was on the Manhattan-bound train when it stopped at the 15th Street–Prospect Park stop and the crooks boarded. When the train reached the Carroll Street stop at 2:10 pm, one of them flashed the blade at the victim and demanded he hand over his cellphone.  
The man complied, and the thugs fled from the train.

**Jewel heist**  
A man was arrested for stealing a treasure trove of gems from a Washington Street apartment on April 3, police said.  
The occupant said he left his home between Water and Plymouth streets at 9 am. When he returned at 11:15 pm, \$20,000 worth of jewels were missing.  
Police said they arrested the alleged crook later that day.

**Bag grab**  
A thief stole a grocery bag from a man unloading his car on Hoyt Street on April 5.  
The man said he was near Atlantic Avenue at 7:40 pm when the crook grabbed one of his bags and fled.

**Apparel swiped**  
Crooks stole clothes from the American Apparel store on Court Street on April 6.  
The store's manager said four men entered the boutique at State Street at 4:33 pm, and ran out six minutes later with 18 pairs of pants.

**Vicious mug**  
Two thugs mugged a woman on York Street on April 4.  
The victim told cops she was near Pearl Street at 1 pm when two women approached and asked, "How do you get to Canal Street?"  
When the woman gave them instructions the crooks allegedly threw her to the ground, grabbed her cellphone, and ran away.  
— Daniel Bush

**78TH PRECINCT**  
**Park Slope**  
**Rotten apple**  
A thief snatched a register full of cash from a laundromat on Fifth Avenue on April 2.  
A worker at Big Apple Cleaner near First Street told cops he locked up at 7:10 pm, came back 12 hours later, and discovered the lock on the front door had been busted with a drill — and a register full of \$1,750 cash gone.

**Bad trip**  
Two crooks stole thousands of bucks from a guest of a Third Avenue hotel on April 5.  
The 37-year-old victim told cops he left two women — whom he had just met — in his bedroom at Super 8 Motel near Union Street at 9:30 pm, then slipped into the bathroom to take a shower. He came back a few minutes later and discovered the women had split and taken \$15,000 from the pocket of his pants.

**Jar head**  
A jerk swiped a container full of coins from an apartment on Fifth Avenue on April 2.  
The 55-year-old victim told cops he left his home near Union Street at 8 am. When he came back at 8:30 pm, he discovered someone had forced open his front door and a jar of coins worth \$20 was missing.  
A neighbor later told police he heard and saw nothing suspicious.

**Bag bandit**  
A pest stole a camera on Eastern Parkway on April 8.  
The 20-year-old victim told cops he was near the

**POLICE BLOTTER**

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**88TH PRECINCT**  
**Fort Greene–Clinton Hill**  
**Text book**  
A duo robbed a woman at gunpoint on Grand Avenue on April 7.  
The 27-year-old victim told cops she was texting between Lefferts Place and Atlantic Avenue at 12:20 am when the two men approached her, displaying a black handgun. One of them said "Give him your money or he'll kill you."  
The victim told them she didn't have any money, so they took her iPhone and fled.

**Pipe pilferer**  
A crafty crook stole copper piping from a pizza parlor on Adelphi Street on April 3, removing the store's access to water.  
Representatives of the business near Myrtle Avenue told cops that they discovered they were without water at 8:50 am and called a plumber. He informed them that the copper piping was gone.

**'Give me dat'**  
A crook robbed a man on Willoughby Avenue on April 5.  
The 18-year-old victim told cops he was near Vanderbilt Avenue at 8:40 pm when a man trapped him between two cars and said, "Give me dat," before taking his headphones and iPhone.

**Targeted**  
A crook stole a woman's purse at Target on Flatbush Avenue on April 5.  
The 43-year-old victim told cops that she was shopping at the store between Hanson Place and Atlantic Avenue 5:15 pm. While she was waiting in the checkout line, she noticed her purse was gone from her cart.  
— Will Bredderman

**Empty-handed**  
A thug tried to steal woman's purse — but failed — on Lefferts Place on April 4.  
The 28-year-old victim told cops she was between Grand and Classon avenues at 10:15 pm when a man walked up to her and tried to pull her bag away from her.  
She held onto her bag and screamed, and the would-be thief fled empty-handed.  
— Natalie O'Neill

**68TH PRECINCT**  
**Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights**  
**Book bully**  
A vicious thug attacked a man with a metal object on Fourth Avenue on April 2, according to cops.  
The victim told police that he was near 73rd Street at 2:20 am when four men approached him. One of the men, wearing a hooded-sweatshirt, whacked the victim in the gut with the object. He then pulled off the victim's backpack, which contained one book, and fled with the posse down Fourth Avenue.

**Game over**  
A thief robbed a Ridge Boulevard apartment on April 5 — taking the couple's \$3,000 TV, among other things.  
The victims told police that they left their home near Bay Ridge Avenue at 1 pm. When they returned later that night at 9, their flat-screen TV, a \$2,000 mink coat, \$1,350 Gucci sunglasses, a wedding ring, and the controller for their Wii system, were gone.  
— Will Bredderman

**90TH PRECINCT**  
**Southside–Bushwick**  
**Shorty wars**  
A violent thug slashed a 35-year-old man's neck with a razor during an argument over a girl in a Roebling Street bodega on April 5, said cops.  
The victim told police that the jerk, known in the neighborhood as "GMan," approached him in the store at 8:05 pm and said, "Oh, you're the man that started on my shorty."  
GMan allegedly swung at the victim with a razor in his fist and slashed his left cheek, jawbone, and wrist.  
He then ran down S. Second Street and paramedics took the victim to Bellevue Hospital, cops said.

**Three stooges**  
Three thieves jumped three women and stole their cash on Havemeyer Street on March 28.  
One victim, 37, told cops she was with her sister and daughter near S. First Street at 6:30 pm when the thugs approached and accused them of having a pocketbook that belonged to one of their sisters.  
"F--- that, let's get this over with," threatened the group's ringleader, while the other answered, "F--- herup," and grabbed the purse, which contained \$780.

**Opening day**  
A violent baseball fan swung a bat at a man on Hooper Street on April 1.  
The victim told police he was near S. Fifth Street at 8:07 am when the thug approached him and swung the bat at his head — missing.  
So, the assailant got out of the batter's box and drove away in his car.

**Coffee tabled**  
A thief stole an antique headboard and coffee table from a S. Second Street apartment sometime between March 31 and April 2.  
The tenant told cops he left his apartment between Keap and Hooper streets at 10 am on March 31, but when he returned at 6 pm on April 2, his furniture was missing.  
— Aaron Short

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# Quest hits BAM

## The Roots's analog drummer dreams of electric beats

**By Eli Rosenberg**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

**H**is music is probably on your iPod — and now your iPod is influencing his music. Questlove is the most recognizable member of one of rap's only live bands, but The Roots's drummer is casting aside his analog, well, roots, to put together a new performance inspired entirely by the digital tunes we carry in our pockets. The percussionist, DJ, and all-around creative mastermind for the Philadelphia hip hop act is bringing this brave new musical idea to Brooklyn Academy of

Music in “Shuffle Culture,” a two-night engagement inspired by the randomness of iPods. The legendary drummer will be performing alongside creative luminaries such as human beatbox mastermind Rahzel, beatbox comedian human Reggie Watts, and experimental pop group Deerhoof — but it's anyone's guess what will happen or what kind of music he'll cook up on April 19 and 20. BAM guarantees the show will be a cutting edge aural experience that merges a playlist with a performance, bouncing between acts including a string quartet, a pianist, beatboxers, a spoken word poet and a DJ.

### MUSIC

**Questlove's “Shuffle Culture,”** at BAM [30 Lafayette Ave. between Fulton Street and Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], April 19 and 20 at 8 pm. \$25. Visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

“Songs and fragments will be arranged in a way that is at once arbitrary and cohesive,” the venue promised. Questlove is known around the nation for being the guy in Jimmy Fallon's house band with the awesome haircut, around hip hop circles for his decades-long run with rap legends The Roots, and around the

borough for laying down beats at Brooklyn Bowl on Thursdays. But he's always been on willing to push his creative boundaries: his side project “The Philadelphia Experiment,” an album he recorded with pianist Uri Caine and bassist Christian McBride, garnered plenty of acclaim. The drummer is clearly willing to experiment, but it's still a bit of a surprising turn for a musician who spends so much time performing live to take his cues from something so digital. BAM says the show will recreate the feeling of listening to a playlist on shuffle — giving you a perfect excuse to leave your iPod at home for a night.

# Supermensch

## Not bird, not plane, but Jewish comics!

**By Daniel Bush**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

**M**ove over, Elijah — a new Jewish superhero is coming to the rescue. Magenthe “Shield of Israel,” a fictional 20-something crime-fighter with a passing resemblance to Captain America, rescues a kidnapped soldier from terrorists in the premiere issue of “Israeli Defense Comics,” a new comic created by Bedford-Stuyvesant artist Joshua Stulman that hits bookstores this month.

The Pratt Institute grad said his muscle-bound, blue-and-white spandex-clad character was inspired by Shaloman, the Jewish star of a long-running comic by Al Wiesner that he discovered in a synagogue gift shop outside of Philadelphia in the late 1980s. “Magen is a superhero that's proud to be Jewish,” said Stulman, who's showcasing the book alongside Wiesner's work in “Super Jew Comics,” an upcoming show at Hadas Gallery in Clinton Hill. The exhibit chronicles the influ-

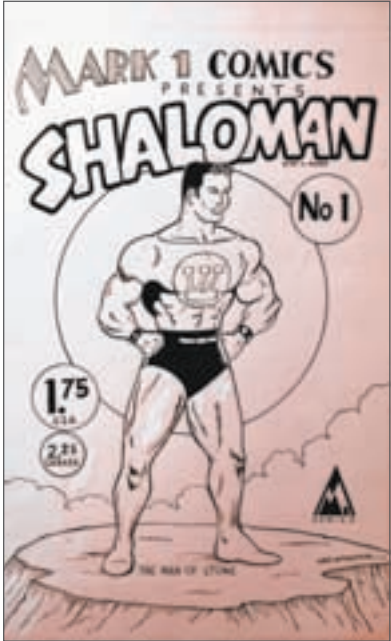
### COMICS

**Super Jew Comics at Hadas Gallery** [541 Myrtle Ave. between Steuben Street and Emerson Place, in Clinton Hill (215) 704-2205]. April 15–June 24. Free. Visit [www.hadassgallery.com](http://www.hadassgallery.com).

ence of Jewish comic book writers such as Superman creators Jerry Siegal and Joe Shuster, and Martin Nodell, the cartoonist who launched the original Green Lantern series.

**Art history:** A new show on the legacy of Jewish comic books and the people who made them will honor Shaloman and his creator Al Wiesner.

But unlike those high-flying dogooders, Magen — whose name means shield in Hebrew — doesn't possess any superpowers. He's just a regular guy living on a kibbutz who works for a scientist developing protective armor. After witnessing a suicide bombing, Magen borrows one of his boss's prototype bulletproof suits and travels the Holy Land stopping acts of terrorism. Stulman insists the explosive plot of his new comic — which he hopes to release quarterly — steers clear of editorializing too much about the minefield of politics in the Middle East. “I don't really have an answer,” said Stulman. “I just want to present the issues in a comic book format.”



### ART

## Ladies night

Brooklyn has picked up the artistic torch from Manhattan, both figuratively and literally. Eight female artists are staging an East Williamsburg sequel to a feminist exhibit that took over Manhattan's New Museum 18 years ago. “Bad Girls 2012” opens Saturday at Interstate Projects gallery, with artists exploring gender, politics, economics, power, and sensuality. Curator Jamie Sterns said female artists are making work unapologetically and without the burden of the weight of history or culture. “Everything is up for grabs, and the results are as complex as their makers,” said Sterns. “These are some of the hottest, smartest, most interesting artists out there who are shaking things up and being as bad as they want to be.” Check out Bushwick resident Gina Beavers' painting of a female torso laid over a Mondrian-like pattern of primary colors, local Rebecca Gilbert's whispery sound installation, and Greenpointer Denise Kupferschmidt's figure drawings. “Bad Girls 2012” at Interstate Projects [56 Bogart St. at Grattan Street, Williamsburg (718) 412-8726] opens April 14, 6–9 pm. [www.aaronshort.com](http://www.aaronshort.com) — **Aaron Short**

### THEATER

## Townies

It's a big Broadway play in a little Brooklyn theater. The Gallery Players are ending their season on April 28 with a musical theater classic: Leonard Bernstein's “Wonderful Town.” “It's interesting to see what a big, Broadway show looks like in a more intimate setting,” said producer Heather Curran. More intimate indeed — the Players theater contains a mere 99-seats. “Working in gallery makes you very inventive as a designer — you don't have the easy answers and you have to come up with creative ways to get things done.” The play tells the story of two Ohio sisters who move into a ragged, Greenwich Village basement, circa 1935 — a bohemian hot bed full of half-starved artists, desperate for fame. To capture the spirit of the era, the Players paid extra attention to the set, costume design, and choreography, despite their spacial limitations. Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 832-0617] April 28, 8 pm. \$18 (\$12 for children under 12 and seniors). Visit [www.galleryplayers.com](http://www.galleryplayers.com). — **Colin Mixson**

### MUSIC

## ‘Feel’ good

The Feelies are still rocking after more than 30 years, and so too are their fans. The founding fathers of alternative rock will return to the Bell House on April 27 for a one-night, two-set trip through their three decade-long discography — a show that will span the generations between shaggy-headed hipsters and the gray-haired rock lovers who raised them. “There are people that are older, closer to our age, who probably knew the band when we were first touring — but there are a lot of people who are younger,” said singer, songwriter, and guitar player Bill Million, whose legendary band broke up in 1992, and only reunited in 2008 at the urging rock demigod Thurston Moore, of Sonic Youth fame. “There are even some families that come out now, where some of the people who used to follow us when we first came out and have had kids.” After their 1980 debut album “Crazy Rhythms,” the band got lots of love in the big city — but The Feelies never so much as strummed a chord on this side of the East River until 2011 — the same year they released their “Here Before,” their first album in 19 years. “We've always had a good response in Brooklyn. The audiences are pretty energetic,” said guitarist Glenn Mercer. “It's real devoted music fans.” The Feelies at the Bell House [149 7th St. between Second and Third Avenues, Gowanus (718) 643-6510] April 27, 8 pm. \$25. Visit [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com). — **Will Bredderman**

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# New Mexican

## Lights on for DUMBO’s Gran Electrica

By Sarah Zorn  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Gran Electrica is adding a jolt to DUMBO’s oft-maligned food scene. The team behind Colonie — a year-old, seasonal, small plates outfit that has enlivened the equally barren Brooklyn Heights area — is hoping to work the same magic in DUMBO with authentic Mexican eats that eschew Tex-Mex constructs like quesadillas and burritos in favor of regional, home-style specialties like tortitas, tlacoyos, and garnachas. “Mexico has one of the greatest cuisines in the world, and yet, most people don’t have a very accurate sense of what it’s really about,” said chef Sam Richman. “The food tends to be very specific to each region.” Much like America, food in Mexico varies drastically from city to city (would you order a lobster roll in Memphis or barbecue in Maine?). “Oaxaca, for example, is isolated by huge mountain ranges, so it’s maintained a very different kind of food from the rest of Mexico,” he said. “In Yucatan, you get a Caribbean influence, Veracruz is Spanish, and Mex-



Buen provecho: Chef Sam Richman shows off a seafood coctel at Gran Electrica, a new Mexican restaurant in DUMBO.

DINING

Gran Electrica [5 Front St. between Dock and Old Fulton Streets in DUMBO, (718) 852-2700].

ico City is a very efficient place to eat, because you can experience flavors from all over the country.” Richman and co-chef Brad McDonald hope to lead Gran Electrica’s guests on a similar journey, exposing palates to native Mexican ingredients like huazontle and epazote, and dishes like pozole rojo, costillas de cerdo, and aguachile. The food may briefly transport diners to the valleys of Puebla or the coastal plains of Veracruz, but the design — along with a cocktail menu of artfully infused mezcal drinks — won’t feel foreign for Brooklynites. Exposed brick, tile, and gleaming blond wood interiors are jazzed with a tasteful dose of ironic Brooklyn chic — think gold painted, candlelit “alters,” a wall of potted green plants, and Day of the Dead wallpaper, slyly reinterpreted to reflect daily life in DUMBO. Look for images of skeletons getting married, dead dog walkers, bony hipster bikers with handlebar mustaches, and skeletal babies wearing crocs in front of the Brooklyn Bridge, the park and the carousel.” The macabre pastiche even shows skeletons clamoring to get into Gran Electrica — an artistic flourish that’s grounded in reality, its owners say. “This neighborhood has been starving for a really great dining options,” said co-owner Elise Rosenberg.

# It’s food gossip

## This week’s arrivals and departures

It’s out with the old and in with the Ethiopian in Carroll Gardens, while Park Slope and Sunset Park go seriously green in this week’s bumper crop of locally produced gossip!

**Farm fresh:** It’s become common practice for restaurants to virtuously list the provenance of every last sustainably sourced ingredient on their menu, but now Applewood in Park Slope can truly stand behind their heritage pork chops and cage-free eggs. That’s because owners David and Laura Shea have bought their own farm in the Hudson River Valley, which they hope will eventually produce most — if not all — of the veggies, fruits, meats, and dairy used at their 11th Street eatery. “We want to supply as much as we can to become what our restaurant is about and a part of the



farm-to-table philosophy,” David Shea told Park Slope Patch. “We want to show that your average neighborhood restaurant can support local farms and use good food and have a viable business model.”

**Raise the roof:** In other farming news, Sunset Park is about to get a whole lot greener than the neighborhood’s name already suggests. Bright Farms — a development and management business — announced it will construct the world’s largest rooftop farm atop a building on the community’s industrial waterfront. The hydroponic greenhouse will grow enough veggies to feed up to 5,000 people and keep up to 1.8 million gallons of storm water

from flooding the harbor during severe rains, according to project backers.

**Aw, shucks:** Prime Meats Delikat-essan and Provisions store, an offshoot of the wildly popular Prime Meats where high-end, dry-aged protein and fancy kitchen goods came together, may have folded — but all is not lost. Eater reports that the joint’s owners, the same folks from Frankies 457 Spuntino, will open a weekend-only oyster and cocktail bar in its place. Shell-abrate good times!

**Tough nut:** Chestnut, a Smith Street stalwart that helped set the tone for the community’s transition into a foodie destination, is shutting its doors after nine years. The neighborhood joint lost its foothold in a sea of area competition that includes Seer-



Farm-to-table: The folks behind Applewood — who have found plenty of fans with dishes like this roasted duck breast with roasted rutabaga and persimmons — are at the forefront of locally sourced cuisine after buying a farm.

sucker and Buttermilk Channel, among others. “What we built was a true mom and pop and not a theme or franchise,” the owners wrote on their website. “It took an army of hungry food loving people to raise this house and an economic disaster to bring it down.”

**Out of Africa:** One thing Brooklyn’s dining scene would use more of is Ethiopian restaurants — that’s why we’re pumped that the popular Manhattan eatery Awash will soon bring kitfo, tibs, doro watt, and injera to the vacated Quercy space on Court Street, according to Brownstoner. The fact that old-guard Quercy was yet another casualty of the Carroll Gardens and Cobble resurgence is another matter — all we can say is The Grocery better not be going anywhere!

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# Very sweet dreams

## Star chefs planning Park Slope’s newest pastry place

**By Natalie O’Neill**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Park Slope’s newest dessert destination boasts star chefs and a Gordon Ramsay pedigree, but it’s going to be more ma-and-pa catery than “Hell’s Kitchen.”

Husband-and-wife dough masters TJ and Vera Obias plan to turn a shuttered brunch joint at Fifth Avenue and Fifth Street into a friendly neighborhood bakery — but they’re also intent on serving the borough’s best tarts, danishes, and other glass-

case staples.

“I like the classics — I’m not interested in the trendy dessert of the minute,” TJ said. “I’m a sucker for the perfect éclair.”

The flour-and-sugar wizard — who boasts an impressive pastry-making resume including a chef position at the New York branch of Gordon Ramsay at the London — hopes to bring top-notch ingredients to a down-home setting.

The eatery, dubbed Du Jour Bakery, will also feature house-made creme brulee, pies, and almond bread

DINING

Du Jour Bakery [365 Fifth Ave. at Fifth Street in Park Slope]. For info, visit [www.dujourbakery.com](http://www.dujourbakery.com). Opening in summer.

pudding crafted by Vera, who brings a lot to the table.

The up-and-coming baker was a chef at the star-studded Russian Tea Room, was featured on Food Network’s “Food Genius” program, and was named “rising star” by the culi-

nary magazine Star Chefs.

Alongside all of the sweets, the couple will also offer healthy, seasonally inspired lunch options such as soups and sandwiches using a simple recipe for success — respect the seasons and keep ingredients simple.

TJ said the couple will likely open the shop in July. He hopes to attract a family-centric crowd, saying Park Slope is the right place for a low-key, everybody-knows-your-name-style scene.

“It doesn’t have to be complicated to be good,” he said.



**Sweet intentions:** Renowned pastry-making couple TJ and Vera Obias are hoping to open a much-anticipated bakery in Park Slope.

BAR SCRAWL

By Bill Roundy

Fort Reno in Park Slope is known for its excellent barbecue.

But the bar is worth a visit of its own.

The specialty cocktails are well-crafted and a little off-beat. (\$10 each).

Plus, there's a decent choice of whiskeys, and 4 local beers on tap.

The crisp 'Fort Warwick' mixes gin, pear liqueur, lemon, + muddled tarragon (!).

Or try the sweet 'Kentucky Companion,' with rye whiskey and tangerine.

And the 'Reverse Happy Hour,' 10pm-midnight, offers a can of beer + a half-sandwich or whiskey shot for \$5.

I'll have 5 beers + shots!

It's pretty popular.

With 4 friends, fortunately.

Order food at this counter.

Fort Reno Provisions [669 Union St., between Fourth and Fifth Avenues in Park Slope, (347) 227-7777]. Open Mon–Fri, 5 pm–midnight; Sat, Sun, noon–midnight. For more info, visit <http://www.fort-reno.us>.

# A brief, wondrous reading

## Acclaimed writer Junot Diaz comes back to the borough

**By Eli Rosenberg**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

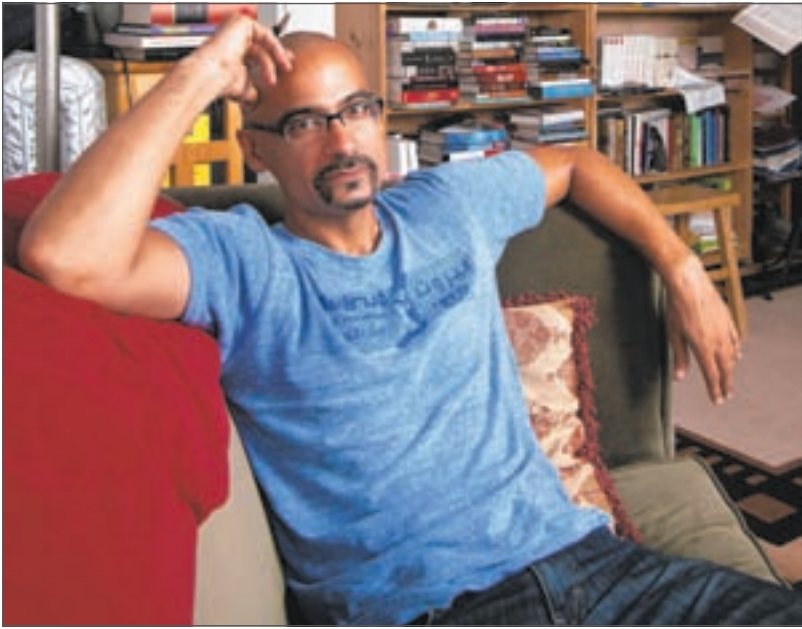
Brooklyn twenty-some-things take note: acclaimed author Junot Diaz says this isn’t the place to live if you want to be an artist.

“For a poor, freak artist, New York is almost impossible now,” said Diaz, the Pulitzer Prize winning writer of “The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao.” “The kind of marginal artists that made New York a place that people wanted to run to is vanishing rapidly.”

Diaz, whose new collection of short stories “This Is How You Lose Her” will hit shelves this fall, knows a little bit about being a struggling artist in Brooklyn — he lived in Boerum Hill in the early 1990s before leaving the borough for Manhattan.

He’s since gone on to a professorship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but Diaz is back in town for an extended stay and he’ll be reading from the new collection at CUNY’s City Tech as part of the school’s Literary Arts Festival on April 26.

Even though so many artists call Brooklyn home, living in the borough can be as lonely as the life of



BOOKS

Junot Diaz at City Tech [285 Jay St. between Tillary Street and Tech Place in Downtown, (718) 260-4975.] April 26, 7 pm. For info, e-mail [chellman@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:chellman@citytech.cuny.edu).

**Write stuff:** Author Junot Diaz will read from his upcoming collection of stories at City Tech on April 26.

Diaz’s most famous character, Oscar Wao.

“We’re not in the business of having a lot of friends with our work,” Diaz said. “If you’re a serious artist, you’re not going to meet the type of people you’re going to vibe with and even if you’ve got a peculiar vision, New York is going to be a lonely place.”

The folks at CUNY’s City Tech campus said Diaz — whose stories are primarily set in the Dominican community — was a natural choice for the reading.

“City Tech is one of the most diverse campuses on the East Coast and we want someone who is representative of our student body,” said Caroline Hellman, who organized the festival.

### Junot’s favorite Dominican eats

Junot Diaz is best known for his intricately woven narrative about a nerd seeking love and challenging fate — but many fans of the literary star say his writing is actually at its most poignant when he’s describing Dominican food.

The acclaimed author of “The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao” and the short story collection “Drowned” often frames his stories within the Dominican community in the United States, and he seems to revel in waxing literary about plantains and rotisserie chicken.

And when he’s in Brooklyn, there’s only one place he goes: Junior Luncheonette in Bushwick.

“This place in Brooklyn, I really couldn’t believe it, this little f----- hole in the wall,” Diaz said. “That s--- was dynamite!”

*Junior Luncheonette [685 Knickerbocker Ave. between Putnam Avenue and Cornelia Street in Bushwick, (718) 417-9465].*

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BROOKLYN MAGAZINE

# My kid thinks he’s too awesome

I often tell my kids how smart they are. I encourage them to feel pride in their schoolwork and in whatever activities they engage in, knowing from many years in marketing that repetition is the best way to brainwash. My efforts are beginning to pay off, but maybe too richly.

The other day, Eli asked to borrow my iPhone. “No,” I said in a tone I believed firm enough to end the conversation.

“Please! I’m not playing games,” he pleaded, “I’m just going to look things up!”

“No,” I repeated, hoping the brainwash trick would work.

“I want to get more information,” he said, more urgently. “It helps my brain!”

Manipulative little so-and-so. He knew I was a sucker for brain boosting. But before I could be convinced to hand

over the device for “learning purposes,” it occurred to me that the Googlization of civilization might spell the end of instinctive thought.

“If Einstein had an iPhone, he may not have sat around pondering things, he would have thought he’d found answers just ‘cause someone on Wikipedia thought it was true,” I explained. “Then where would we be?”

Eli stared at me, slack-jawed, primed to sass.

“Mom, please!” he said, rolling his eyes. “I’m really smart. I’m the smartest kid in my class.”

My stomach dropped. Here was my son believing himself to be smarter than most everyone else. This was serious. We were in trouble.

I thought of all the “smartest” people I’ve known in my life, those that thought they could beat the system, those



## Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

that didn’t understand that the house always wins, those that ended up dead, or on drugs, or in jail — all because they were smarter than everybody else.

I slowed the car down and began to maniacally scream at him from somewhere deep and instinctual, from the place of Primal Protector.

“You may think you’re really smart but you’re not nearly so smart as you think you are!” I spat as he shrank away from me down into the black leather seat. “Let me tell you, my friend, thinking

you’re smarter than everyone else will get you into tons and tons of trouble!”

I remembered when the concept of humility became clear to me. It wasn’t in synagogue, it was in school when learning about Greek mythology. Story after story showed clearly how challenging the gods would always result in one’s doom. It was crucial to be humbled by the Unseen Powers sometimes. It was a matter of survival.

I’d parked the car in front of our little house.

“Who do you think you are!” I shouted at Eli.

It felt important to make him pay attention to exactly how small he was in the larger greater universe.

And it was the end of innocence of a sort. It is a very slippery slope to encourage the feelings of diminished greatness, but it seems crucial. As Eli nears 11, and we begin to loosen the reigns, a healthy bit of ego-busting seems all too necessary.

I felt horrible when Eli hung his head in shame and started to tear up after my tirade. But sending kids out into the world who think they’re too smart scares me witless.

Being humble is a crucial safety measure, one that in these days of parenting prideful can very well get swept under the rug.

That’s something I’m going to have to learn to repeat to myself, and to my kids.



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# DOMINO...

*Continued from page 1*

“The Katan Group has lined up a partner to pay off the lender and recapitalize the project,” said Scharf, whose client would not disclose the identity of the outside investor.

Katan sued his development partner last month in an attempt to prevent the ailing housing financier from renegotiating the loan it took out in 2007 with a third-party lender — claiming Community Preservation Corporation Resources committed fraud and breach of contract in its dealings with the backer.

Katan is seeking an injunction to halt the refinancing, which is only the latest problem for a beleaguered development that ran into trouble after the city signed off on a controversial plan to allow residential development on the site nearly two years ago.

Real estate insiders say the 11-acre site is on the market, but Community Preservation Corporation Resources claims that it only wants to sell off a part of the giant waterfront project.

As Community Preservation Corporation Resources’ debt — and Katan’s conster-

nation — grew, the company sought a slew of investors to help stabilize the project, court documents indicate.

Last year, Katan submitted several potential bidders, which Community Preservation Corporation Resources vice president Susan Pollock vetted, only to have each deal fizzle out, according to Pollock’s affidavit.

Both partners have said publicly they want to stick to their Domino plan, but real estate sources say flipping the site could prove to be extremely lucrative.

Pollock dismissed Katan’s claims of malfeasance as baseless and invalid.

“There was absolutely no evidence to support any claim that Community Preservation Corporation Resources had engaged in any improper actions and Katan did not even attempt to provide any evidence of its own supportive of its accusations,” said Pollock. “Community Preservation Corporation Resources remains confident that the court will deny Katan the injunction it is seeking.”

The judge did not make a ruling on Katan’s injunction request. The next court date is May 4.

# FROOKLNY...

*Continued from page 1*

vice would not comment on the misspelling — but a spokeswoman gasped in surprise when we told her about the error.

“I can’t believe that!” she said.

Yet some were not too surprised by the blooper,

claiming they expected nothing less from a post office that sparked a customer breakdown so epic that the YouTube video on the incident went viral in 2006.

“I think this really drives our concerns home,” said Wertheimer.

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SUMMONS: VALENTIEN V. VALENTIEN SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF QUEENS, INDEX NO. 4902/12; RAYCHELLE VALENTIEN, Plaintiff, against- VALENTIEN, Defendant, SIGMAR SUMMONS and Notice in divorce action, venue based upon Plaintiff's residence, cause of action is abandonment. You are summoned to appear in this action by serving a Notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney, Thomas P. McNulty, Esq., 305 Broadway, Suite 1400, New York, NY, 10007 (212)344-0272 within 30 days after service is completed and if you fail to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default.

To the above named Defendant, this Summons is served upon you by publication by Order of Hon. Thomas D. Raffeale, a justice of this court, granted on March 15, 2012. The nature of the ancillary relief demanded is: The Plaintiff may resume use of her maiden name, Raychelle Wilson, or any other former surname. The Family Court shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the Supreme Court with respect to any future issues of maintenance and support. The provisions of DRL Section 236 Part B Section 2, (Automatic Orders Notice) and DRL Section 255 (Health Insurance Notice) shall apply. The Court may grant such other and further relief as it may deem just and proper. The relief sought is a Judgment of Divorce

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/06/2012, bearing Index Number NC-000348-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Ashley (Middle) Ashonny (Last) Perez. My present name is (First) Ashley (Middle) Ashonny (Last) Perez Sosa AKA Ashley Ashonny Sosa. My present address is 63 Bleecker Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221-. My place of birth is Manhattan, New York. My date of birth is July 13, 1990.


NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/06/2012, bearing Index Number NC-000349-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Glenn (Middle) David (Last) Perez. My present name is (First) Glenn (Middle) David (Last) Perez Sosa AKA Glenn David Sosa. My present address is 63 Bleecker Street, Brooklyn, NY 11221-. My place of birth is Manhattan, New York. My date of birth is April 07, 1993.

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State University of New York  
Notice to Bidders



The State University of New York Downstate Medical Center will receive sealed Proposals for Project No. 09-009 Titled **UHB 2nd Floor Operating Room Door Modifications until 2:00 p.m.** Local Time on **May 4th, 2012 at 811 New York Avenue 2nd Floor Room**, where such proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

All work on this Contract is to be completed within **one hundred twenty (120) calendar days** starting ten (10) calendar days after the contract approval date of the New York State Comptroller.

Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge at the campus at: SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 811 New York Avenue, Contracts and Procurement Room 202 Box 113, Brooklyn, NY 11203-2098.

- A **MANDATORY** Pre-bid Conference and Project Walk-through will be held on **April 23rd, 2012** with all contractors assembled at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in the Main Lobby, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203. The mandatory conference will begin promptly at 10:30am. No individual or additional walk-through will be performed under the pre-bid time period. Only bidders who attend the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Project Walkthrough will be permitted to submit a proposal on this project.
- Qualifications of Bidders:**
  - All prospective bidders are hereby notified that, on request of the University, they must be able to prove to the satisfaction of the University that they have the skill and experience, as well as the necessary facilities, ample financial resources, organization and general reliability to do the work to be performed under the provisions of the Contract in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified.
  - Each bidder must be prepared to show to the satisfaction of the University that it has working capital available for the Project upon which it is bidding in an amount equal to 15 percent of the first \$100,000 of the amount of its Total Bid plus 10 percent of the next \$900,000 plus 5 percent of the remainder of its Total Bid. Working capital is defined as the excess of current assets over current liabilities. The University defines current assets as assets which can be reasonably expected to be converted into cash within a year, and current liabilities as debts which will have to be paid within a year.
  - A bidder must also be prepared to prove, to the satisfaction of the University, that it has successfully completed a contract of similar work in an amount of not less than 50 percent of the amount of its Total Bid.
  - Contractor shall have a minimum of five (5) years of hospital related construction experience having successfully completed a minimum of five (5) projects with scopes matching or exceeding this project. Contractor (or his sub-contractor) shall have an electrician's license and (using the specified door systems or the University approved equal) be a trained, certified and experienced door system installer with a minimum of five (5) completed door system projects within the last three (3) years.

Complete sets of Contract Documents for bidding may be obtained from: Marvin Smith, Purchase Associate, Contracts & Procurement, Downstate Medical Center, 811 New York Avenue, Box 113, Brooklyn, NY 11203 tel (718)613-8781, email: [marvin.smith@downstate.edu](mailto:marvin.smith@downstate.edu). A CD containing the documents will be mailed to you.

Section 143 of the State Finance Law requires payment of a deposit to receive these documents. Accordingly, a deposit check of **\$49.00**, made payable to **SUNY Downstate Medical Center** is required. Deposits less than \$50.00 are nonrefundable.

Bids must be submitted in duplicate in accordance with the instructions contained in the Information for Bidders. Security will be required for each bid in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the Total Bid.

It is the policy of the State of New York and the State University of New York to encourage minority business enterprise participation in this project by contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, and all bidders are expected to cooperate in implementing this policy.

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## Lawyered-up vendor points finger at merchants

Lawyers from the Street Vendor Project, an advocacy group that fights for the rights of street vendors, slapped Lone Star bar owner Tony Gentile and Brooklyn Bagels Cafe co-owner Mike Boutross with cease-and-desist letters last week, demanding that the duo stop harassing the purveyor of

"That guy's lying through his teeth," Boutross said. "Maybe he doesn't know who I am or what I look like, and he has me confused with

"You aren't going to hear me saying 'those filthy Ar-

Kassen said he's seen both Gentile and Boutross lurk-



Basinski said he wants to meet with Boutross in person to alleviate the bagel shop

"We'd like to explain to him the cart is not a threat to him," said Basinski, citing studies that say mobile vendors do not harm from brick-and-mortar businesses. "They're half a block away, on the other side of the street, selling a completely different product."

“If there is no specified

"There's no ultimate right and right and wrong; it's a matter of custom and interpretation," he said. "Ultimately, the most important interpretation comes from the guy writing

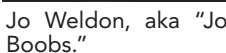
The Department of Transportation has since replaced the signs on the roadway—where drivers lost a lane of traffic

He then sent a package containing photos, newspaper clippings, and forms explaining the mishap to Deputy Chief Administra-

Vincent says Hollingsworth's reading of the law borders on illiterate, but interpreting the word "to" can be tricky when describing a time frame, according to Harvard University English pro-

The filing fee for such a procedure is roughly \$310—more than twice the cost of the ticket itself—but Vincent said it's not about the money. "It's the principle," he said.

Coney Island USA [1208 Surf Ave. between Stillwell Avenue and W. 12th Street in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159] April 18, 9 pm. \$10. Visit [www.coneyisland.com](http://www.coneyisland.com).



A spokesman for Kemistry, Peter Flores, promised the Prospect

Last year, a proposed bar called Prime 6 became a proxy battle in the war over the Atlantic Yards mega-project when neighbors

"It won't be as crazy as the community thinks," Brown said.

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